

Stop 4: Harry is Introduced to Politics

Harry's father believed politics was one of the most important things in life. Harry's father was so serious about politics he was even known to get into a few fistfights when he could not win a political argument with words alone. Harry was first introduced to the world of politics when he was in the second grade. That year was a presidential election year and Harry's father wanted the democratic candidate, Grover Cleveland, to win. During the campaign Harry was given a cap that said "Grover Cleveland and Adlai Stevenson." It was a hat Harry wore with pride. When Cleveland was elected Harry's father climbed to the roof of his house and raised the American flag. Later that night, Harry's father rode in a torch light parade that went right by this corner, to celebrate the victory. Harry had learned so much about politics from his father that by the time he was twelve he was having political debates with his Uncle Harrison. Later, when Harry was sixteen, his father got him a job as a page at the Democratic convention held in Kansas City in 1900. Little did Harry know that he would later run for political office himself.



John Truman
Harry Truman's Father

Activity 4)

Read each brief description in the left-hand column and find its answer in the right-hand column. Write the letter in the space provided.

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| ___1. Harry wore this kind of hat to school when he was in the second grade. | A. Democratic |
| ___2. What politicians need to win an election. | B. President |
| ___3. Where the political parties decide who will run for president. | C. Campaign |
| ___4. Harry's father taught him that this was important. | D. Convention |
| ___5. Harry and his father belonged to this political party. | E. Votes |
| ___6. What Harry's father raised over his house in 1892. | F. Politics |
| ___7. Harry Truman and Grover Cleveland both served as this. | G. Flag |

Without the influence of his father Truman would not have become the great politician that he was. From here go around the corner to the front of the courthouse. If the courthouse is open go inside and see if you can find Truman's courtroom.